



Senate

General Assembly

February Session, 2000

File No. 14

Senate Bill No. 89

Senate, March 6, 2000

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning The Composition Of The Board Of Mental Health And Addiction Services.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (a) of section 17a-456 of the general statutes is repealed
2 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) There shall be a Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services
4 that shall consist of: (1) [fifteen] Nineteen members appointed by the
5 Governor, subject to the provisions of section 4-9a, five of whom shall
6 have had experience in the field of substance abuse, [and] five of
7 whom shall be from the mental health community, three of whom
8 shall be physicians licensed to practice medicine in this state who have
9 had experience in the field of psychiatry, [and] two of whom shall be
10 psychologists licensed to practice in this state, two of whom shall be
11 persons representing families of individuals with psychiatric
12 disabilities, and two of whom shall be persons representing families of
13 individuals recovering from substance abuse problems; (2) the

14 chairmen of the regional mental health boards established pursuant to
15 section 17a-484; [] (3) one designee of each such board; [and (4) one
16 designee from each] (4) two designees from each of the five subregions
17 represented by the substance abuse subregional planning and action
18 [council] councils established pursuant to section 17a-671; (5) one
19 designee from each mental health region established pursuant to
20 section 17a-478, each of whom shall represent individuals with
21 psychiatric disabilities, selected by such regional mental health boards
22 in collaboration with advocacy groups; and (6) one designee from each
23 of the five subregions represented by such substance abuse
24 subregional planning and action councils, each of whom shall
25 represent individuals recovering from substance abuse problems,
26 selected by such substance abuse subregional planning and action
27 councils in collaboration with advocacy groups. The members of the
28 board shall serve without compensation except for necessary expenses
29 incurred in performing their duties. The members of the board [shall]
30 may include representatives of nongovernment organizations or
31 groups, and of state agencies, concerned with planning, operation or
32 utilization of facilities providing mental health and substance abuse
33 services, including consumers and providers of such services who are
34 familiar with the need for such services, except that no more than half
35 of the members of the board shall be providers of such services.
36 [Members] Appointed members shall serve on the board for terms of
37 four years each and members who are designees shall serve on the
38 board at the pleasure of the designating authority. [None of the
39 appointive members] No appointed member of the board shall be
40 employed by the state or be a member of the staff of any institution
41 [wherein his] for which such member's compensation is paid wholly
42 by the state. No appointed member may serve more than two
43 successive terms plus the balance of any unexpired term to which [he]
44 such member has been appointed. A majority of the board shall
45 constitute a quorum.

PH **Committee Vote:** Yea 21 Nay 0 JF

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Affected Agencies: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

This bill adds nine members to the Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services. As the board consists of advocates and members of the public who receive no compensation for their service, this bill results in no fiscal impact for the state.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 89

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES.**SUMMARY:**

This bill adds nine members to the Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services, increasing its membership from 40 to 49. It gives the governor four additional appointees (for a total of 19). Two of the governor's new appointees must represent families of individuals with

psychiatric disabilities and two, families of individuals recovering from substance abuse.

The bill retains as members, the chairman of, and one designee from, each of the five regional mental health boards (10 members). Instead of one designee from each of the 15 substance abuse subregional planning and action councils, the bill substitutes 20 designees as follows:

1. two from each of the five subregions represented by the substance abuse planning and action councils (10 members);
2. one from each mental health region, representing individuals with psychiatric disabilities and selected by the regional board in collaboration with advocacy groups (5 members); and
3. one from each of the five subregions represented by the substance abuse subregional planning and action councils, representing individuals recovering from substance abuse problems, and selected by the councils in collaboration with advocacy groups (5 members).

The bill specifies that “appointed” members (presumably those appointed by the governor) serve four-year terms, while the “designee” members serve at the pleasure of their designating authority. Under the bill, appointed members cannot serve more than two successive terms plus the balance of any unexpired term to which they were appointed.

Finally, the bill allows, rather than requires, that board members include representatives of nongovernment groups and state agencies concerned with planning, operating, or using facilities providing mental health and substance abuse services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000

BACKGROUND

Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services

By law, the board must meet monthly with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services commissioner to review and advise him

on programs, policies, and plans of the department.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 21 Nay 0